

GreenList

*Energy & Environmental news brought to you
weekly by the Sustainable Solutions Division
of the DC Energy Office*

March 13–19, 2006



Congressional Briefing

Human Alteration of the Nitrogen Cycle: Status and Implications

March 21, 12–2:30 pm, Russell SOB, Room 385

- The American Meteorological Society's (AMS) Environmental Science Seminar Series will hold a Congressional briefing to discuss human impacts on the global nitrogen cycle. The briefing will include speakers from Duke University and University of Virginia.
- Contact [Dr. Anthony Socci](#), 202-737-9006 x412

Coming Event

Documentary “The Great Warming” Coming this Spring

Stonehaven Productions

We are living at the dawn of a new epoch. Year by year, degree by degree, Earth is growing warmer... a legacy of the Industrial Revolution, population growth, and our addiction to technology, speed, and power. Just as other generations spoke of a Great Plague and a Great Depression, our children will be compelled to endure *The Great Warming*—and find a way to conquer its consequences.

New Web Resource

Ban the Bulb via [BBC News](#)

- Governments are wrestling with problems of rising energy demands, rising costs and the spectre of climate change. Dr. Matt Prescott argues there is an easy first step to dealing with all three issues—banning the traditional light bulb.
- Incandescent bulbs waste so much energy that if they were invented today, it is highly unlikely they would be allowed onto the market. One quick and simple option for improving energy efficiency would be to make greater use of compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Top Stories

The Planet Can't Wait

Washington Post — March 8, 2006

The warnings are coming from frogs and beetles, from melting ice and changing ocean currents, and from scientists and responsible politicians around the world. And yet what is the U.S. government doing about global warming? Nothing. That should shock the conscience of Americans.

“Green” Chemists Swap Oil for Renewable Alternatives

Christian Science Monitor — March 6, 2006

Petroleum for non-fuel use made up just over five percent of total oil consumption in the United States last year (one million barrels a day). That's enough to demand the attention of a new generation of industry and academic scientists who are working to find natural, nontoxic alternatives to petroleum for consumer products.

Take a Look at West Philadelphia High's Hybrid

Treehugger — March 5, 2006

Shooting to national attention in the US after major news coverage, the K-1 Attack Hybrid sports car is sending a message to the major US auto manufacturers: if we can do it, why can't you? Built from a kit, it's what's under the hood that counts: and this baby is reported to have super-sport performance (0–60 in 4 seconds) at better than 50 mpg.

NET Joins State Attorneys General in Asking Supreme Court to Review EPA Decision to Ignore Global Warming

U.S. Newswire — March 3, 2006

The National Environmental Trust joined with Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly and 11 other states, three major metropolitan cities, one island government, and several environmental groups in a historic Supreme Court challenge of the Environmental Protection Agency's refusal to acknowledge greenhouse gases as air pollution.

World Lawmakers Set Up Global Warming Monitor Group

Reuters — February 24, 2006

Lawmakers and business leaders from around the world launched a campaign on Friday to push recalcitrant governments to take action on climate change ... The parliamentarians from the Group of Eight rich nations and five major developing countries said their three-year goal was to force the pace.

In Other News

[The False God of Uranium](#)

OhmyNews International — March 10, 2006

Today, nuclear energy is firmly back on the table as the new “green power,” an emissions-free alternative to fossil fuels ... The world’s uranium will be depleted almost as fast as fossil fuels ... We have the technology that is immediately available; it takes only a week to install a windmill and a couple of hours to install solar panels. It takes year to build conventional power stations.

[Hidden Garden of Eden Wilts as Earth Warms](#)

New Scientist — March 10, 2006

A paradise world of undiscovered species and tropical glaciers in the mountains of New Guinea is disappearing faster than it can be explored. So says a climate scientist who has discovered that global warming there is happening 20 times faster than previously thought.

[Carbon Fiber Cars Could Put U.S. on Highway to Efficiency](#)

Clean Edge — March 8, 2006

Highways of tomorrow might be filled with lighter, cleaner and more fuel-efficient automobiles made in part from recycled plastics, lignin from wood pulp and cellulose. First, however, researchers at the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory, working as part of a consortium with Ford, General Motors and DaimlerChrysler, must figure out how to lower the cost of carbon fiber composites.

[Why the Nation’s Largest Community Garden Must Become a Wal-Mart Warehouse](#)

Grist Magazine — March 7, 2006

The fate of LA’s South Central Community Garden, the largest of its kind in the United States, looks fairly straightforward: It sits on private property, and its owner wants to sell it for development. The 300 or so families who garden there, most of whom by all accounts live under the poverty line, will have to find a new source of food.

[Transforming Concrete Jungles into Urban Orchards](#)

Treehugger — March 7, 2006

They call themselves the largest veggie-powered caravan in the world, and they’re traversing California teaching school kids that the city is alive. Through a fusion of arts, culture, and ecology, Common Vision aims at awakening youth not only to ecology, but to its cultural and communal roots.

[The Coming Resource Wars](#)

Tom Paine — March 7, 2006

It’s official: the era of resource wars is upon us. In a major London address, British Defense Secretary John Reid warned that global climate change and dwindling natural resources are combining to increase the likelihood of violent conflict over land, water and energy.

[This is Hospital Food?](#)

Oregonian — March 7, 2006

Picture hospital food. Now picture this: A hungry new mom orders wild salmon with a side of roasted organic sweet potatoes from a hospital kitchen that cooks it on the spot and hustles it to her room ... Quite a contrast from a bowl of canned fruit cocktail. Hospitals nationwide are starting to follow their own advice: In order to be healthy, your food and environment should be that way, too.

[Grand Teton Concessioner Has Its Guests Seeing Green](#)

GreenBiz.com — March 7, 2006

Grand Teton Lodge Company is one of the first lodging companies in the U.S. to achieve International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 certification for its environmental management program. The company’s award-winning Envision program takes a comprehensive, systematic approach to sustainable business practices that preserve the environment.

[Russia Approves Disputed Oil Pipeline Along Huge Lake](#)

New York Times — March 6, 2006

Plans to build an oil pipeline that would pass along the shoreline of Lake Baikal, the world’s most voluminous freshwater lake, were approved today by a Russian regulatory panel over objections from scientists and environmental groups.

[Guns and Sunshades to Rescue Climate](#)

BBC — March 2, 2006

Any cook who has tasted a dish after tossing in too much salt or hot pepper knows the panic of trying to undo the damage ... Consider the notion of shading the planet with mirrors. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences found that 55,000 orbiting mirrors would reflect enough sunlight to counter about half the doubling of carbon dioxide.
